



**State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice

In Support of:

**S.B. No. 221 (RAISED) An Act Prohibiting the Disclosure
of Employee Files to Inmates**

*Joint Committee on Judiciary
February 26, 2010*

The Division of Criminal Justice respectfully recommends the Committee's Joint Favorable Report for *S.B. No. 221, An Act Prohibiting Disclosure of Employee Files to Inmates*. This bill would extend important protections to employees of the Department of Correction and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services with regard to their personal records.

Specifically, the bill would add a new exemption to the list of state government records that are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. It would prohibit inmates in the state's prison system or individuals committed to the Whiting Forensic Division of Connecticut Valley Hospital from utilizing the Freedom of Information Act to obtain personal medical records and other personnel records of correction officers or employees at Whiting. The Freedom of Information Act was never intended to serve as a vehicle for abuse and harassment, yet this is another example of a disturbing trend among some inmates to utilize any and every aspect of the legal system in an unending effort to take advantage of the rights and privileges afforded to law-abiding citizenry to abuse the system.

The bill is carefully drawn to protect employees who work in potentially dangerous and sensitive positions from harassment by those over whom they exercise supervision. Correction officers and Whiting personnel have a difficult enough job to do without being subjected to the additional harassment or threats that this bill seeks to prevent. The State of Connecticut owes a debt of gratitude to these dedicated public servants and we owe them the protection envisioned in this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kevin T. Kane
Chief State's Attorney**